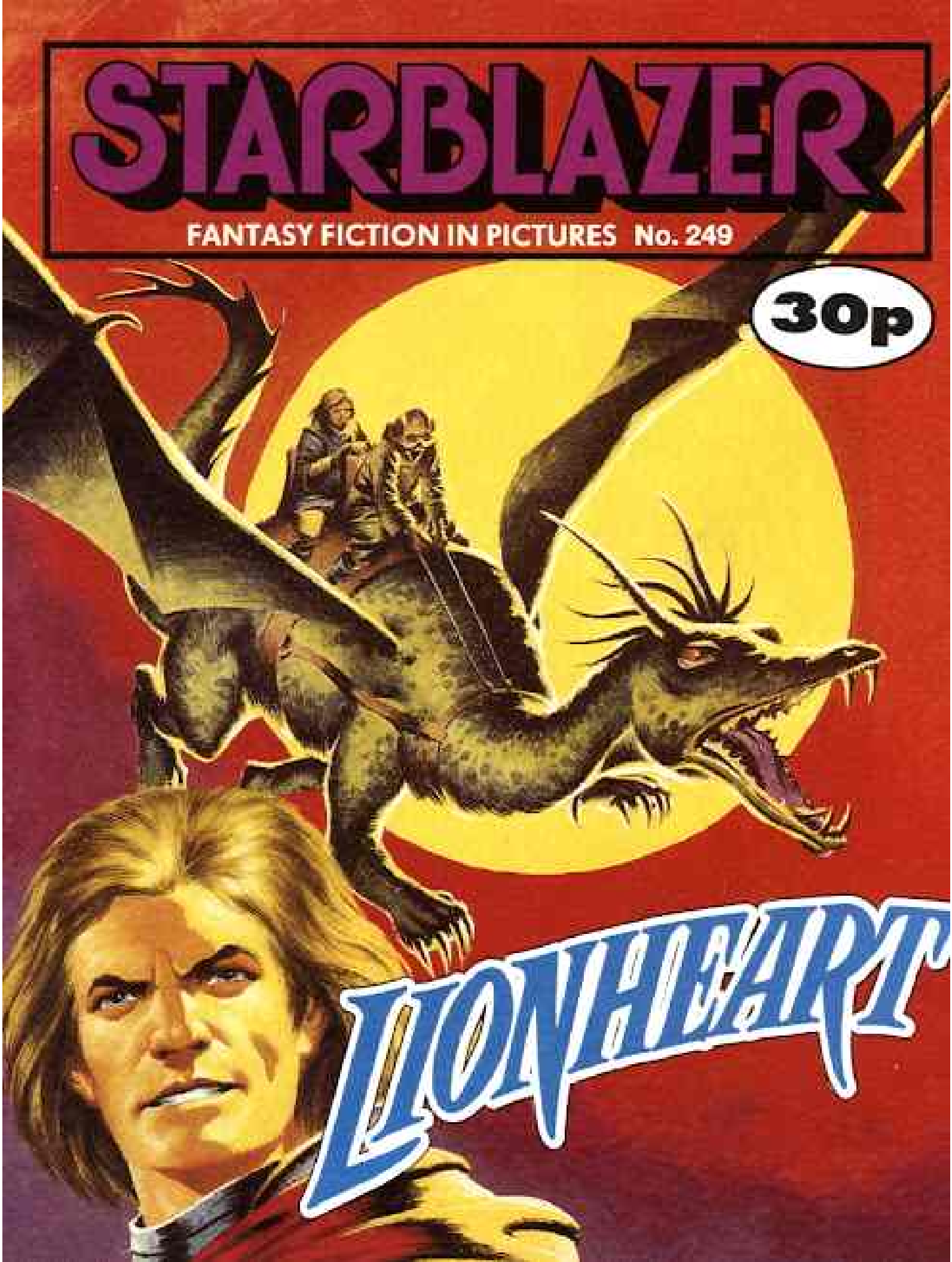
STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 249

30p

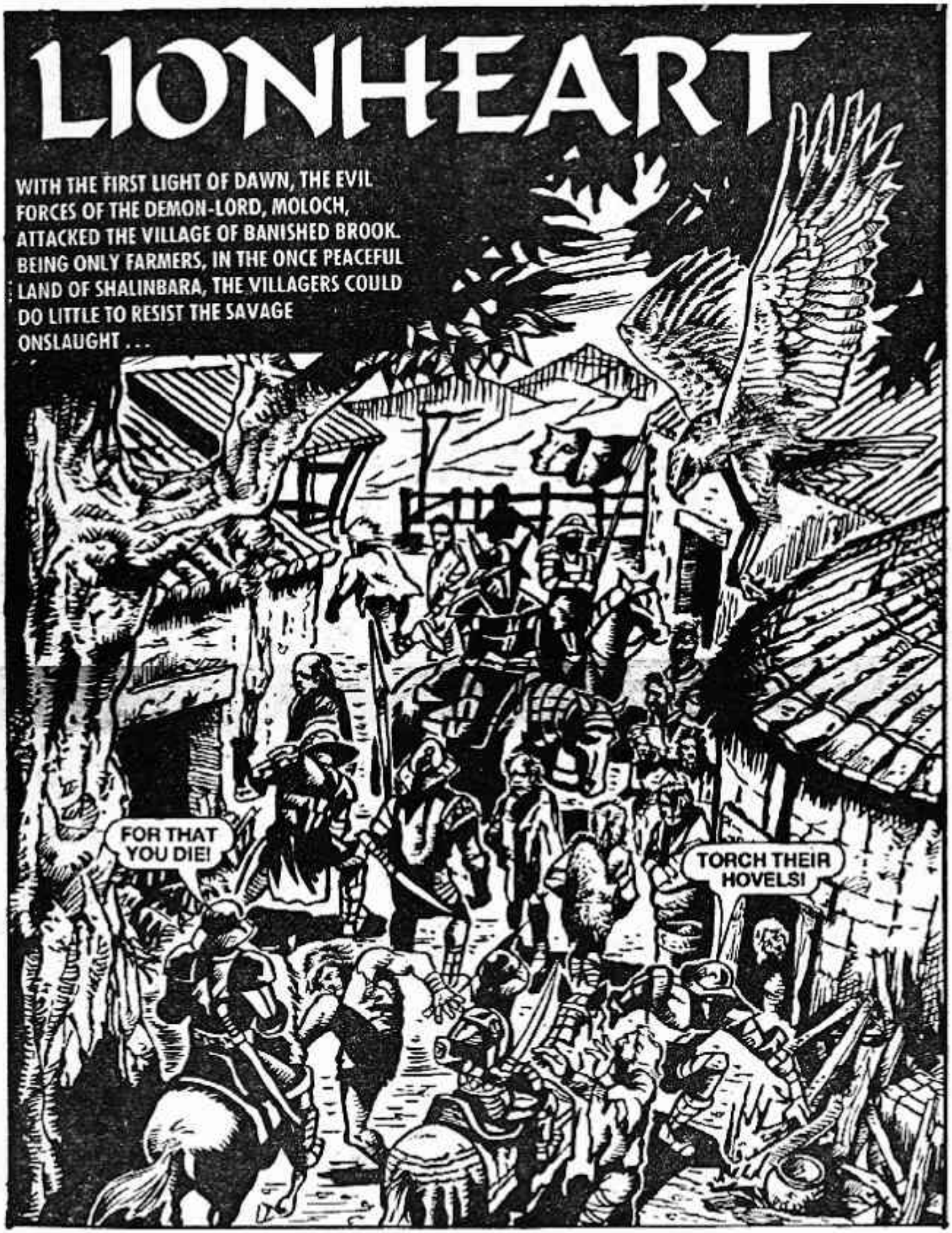


IF YOU'RE A FOOTBALL FAN, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THESE!

68 PAGES EACH

FOOTBALL LIBRARIES Nos. 79+80

NOW ON SALE 30p


LIONHEART
WITH THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN, THE EVIL FORCES OF THE DEMON-LORD, MOLOCH, ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF BANISHED BROOK. BEING ONLY FARMERS, IN THE ONCE PEACEFUL LAND OF SHALINBARA, THE VILLAGERS COULD DO LITTLE TO RESIST THE SAVAGE ONSLAUGHT . . .
FOR THAT YOU DIE!
TORCH THEIR HOVELS!

IN THE VILLAGE LIVED DALCAR, A WISE MAN, AND HIS WARD, TORRIS.
YOU ARE THE REASON MOLOCH'S KNIGHTS ATTACK THE VILLAGE, TORRIS. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE. YOU MUST NOT BE HARMED.
BUT I MUST STAY TO FIGHT.

NO! YOU MUST GO! YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE RISKS!
NOT PERMITTED? BY WHOM?

DALCAR DID NOT REPLY. HE MUMBLED ARCHAIC WORDS AND THREW HIS ARMS WIDE—
MAY THE GODS OF LIGHT GUIDE YOU TO GREGOR . . .
YOU FADE . . . OR IS IT ME!

TORRIS MOVED THROUGH THE ASTRAL PLANES UNTIL HE FINALLY BEGAN TO REMATERIALISE IN A REMOTE TOWER.

AH . . . MY VISITOR!

A DRAGON!
ONE OF THE LAST! HIS NAME IS MOONFIRE AND HE WILL TAKE US TO THE CAVERN.
WHAT CAVERN? WHAT IS GOING ON?
YOU WILL BE TOLD IN GOOD TIME!

MOONFIRE TOOK TO THE SKY.
SOON THE REBELLION WILL BEGIN!
WHAT REBELLION? EXPLAIN TO ME!
I WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF KING AKRON LIONHEART. DALCAR AND I ACTED AS HIS ADVISORS. UNDER HIS BENEVOLENT RULE, SHALINBARA ENJOYED A GOLDEN AGE OF PEACE AND CONTENTMENT . . .

BUT LIONHEART'S CHIEF WIZARD, MOLOCH, KILLED AKRON AND HIS WIFE BEFORE SEIZING THE CROWN. UNDER HIS RULE, BEGAN A DARK AGE OF TERROR THAT CONTINUES TO THIS VERY DAY.
THE SON OF AKRON LIONHEART WAS SMUGGLED FROM MOLOCH'S CLUTCHES AND PLACED IN THE CARE OF LOYAL PEOPLE.
SO . . . WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH ME?
NOT VERY BRIGHT ARE YOU? YOU, TORRIS, ARE THE SON OF LIONHEART!

ME? . . . NO! YOU JEST!
I HAVE NO TIME TO BANDY WORDS WITH YOU! YOU MUST TRAVEL ON ALONE. AN ARCANE SPELL PREVENTS ME FROM ENTERING THE CAVE.
HURRY . . . MOLOCH'S KNIGHTS WILL BE HERE BEFORE SUNSET.
DAZED BY EVENTS, AND OVERCOME BY DOUBTS, TORRIS STEPPED INTO THE CAVE.
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
YOU WILL KNOW WHEN YOU FIND IT!

TORRIS STUMBLED FORWARD IN THE DARKNESS —
A PIT . . . AAARGH!
WHAT EVILS LURK IN THE DEPTHS?
TORRIS MANAGED TO GRAB THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PIT —
GAUNT KILL!

PREPARE TO DIE, LITTLE MAN!
UH-OH!

MISSED!
BUT THE GIANT DIDN'T MISS THE SECOND TIME—
LITTLE MAN SCARED OF GAUNT!
I'M NOT SCARED . . . I'M MAD . . . FIGHTING MAD!

THE FEROCITY OF TORRIS' ATTACK CAUGHT THE GIANT UNAWARES —
GO AND MEET WHATEVER DEVILS WAIT IN THAT DARKNESS!

THE GIANT TUMBLED BACKWARDS INTO THE PIT—
WHAT OTHER HORRORS LIE IN WAIT FOR ME?

TORRIS HEARD A PITIFUL WAILING, AND RETURNED TO THE PIT.
PLEASE HELP — GAUNT NOT WANT TO DIE.
YOU DESERVE TO DIE, BUT I AM NOT A COLD-BLOODED KILLER.
GAUNT WON'T FORGET THIS.
GAUNT NOW YOUR FRIEND.
GOOD, THEN YOU CAN HELP ME FIND WHAT I SEEK . . . WHATEVER IT IS . . .

MOLOCH IMPRISONED GAUNT HERE. SAY I MUST KILL ANY STRANGER WHO COMES OR HE KILL ME.
I THINK I PREFERRED HIM AS MY ENEMY — HE NEVER STOPS TALKING.
WHAT MAGIC IS THIS — GHOSTS ATTACK US!?
GAUNT NOT LIKE GHOSTS!
BUT GAUNT WAS ONLY THE FIRST OF MOLOCH'S GUARDIANS OF THE CAVE —

ITS GRIP IS AS COLD AS ICE!

MY SWORD IS USELESS — IT PASSES THROUGH THE SPECTRE . . .

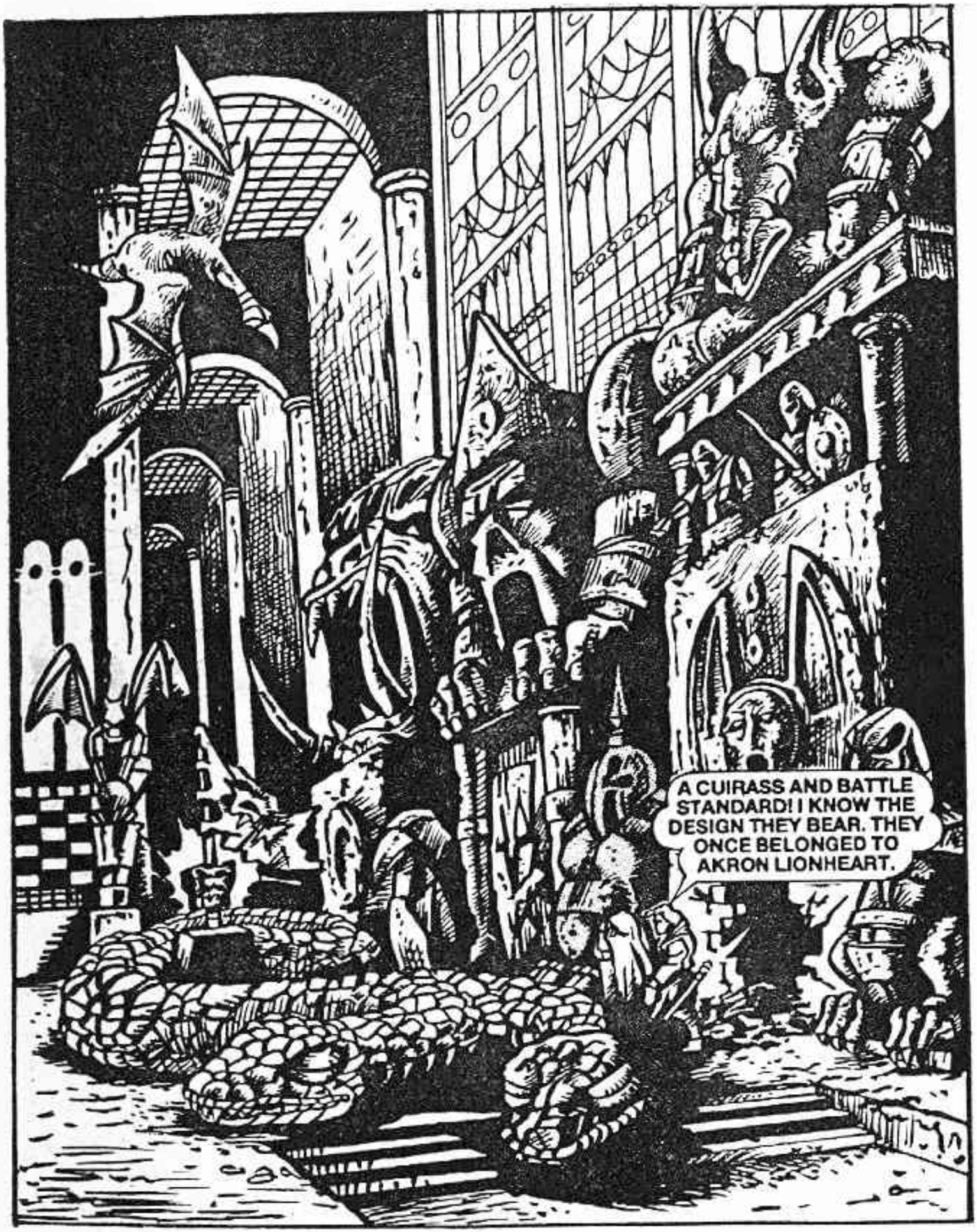
GRAAAAH!
PERHAPS WHERE STEEL FAILS, FIRE WILL SUCCEED.

AAAARRRRRGH!

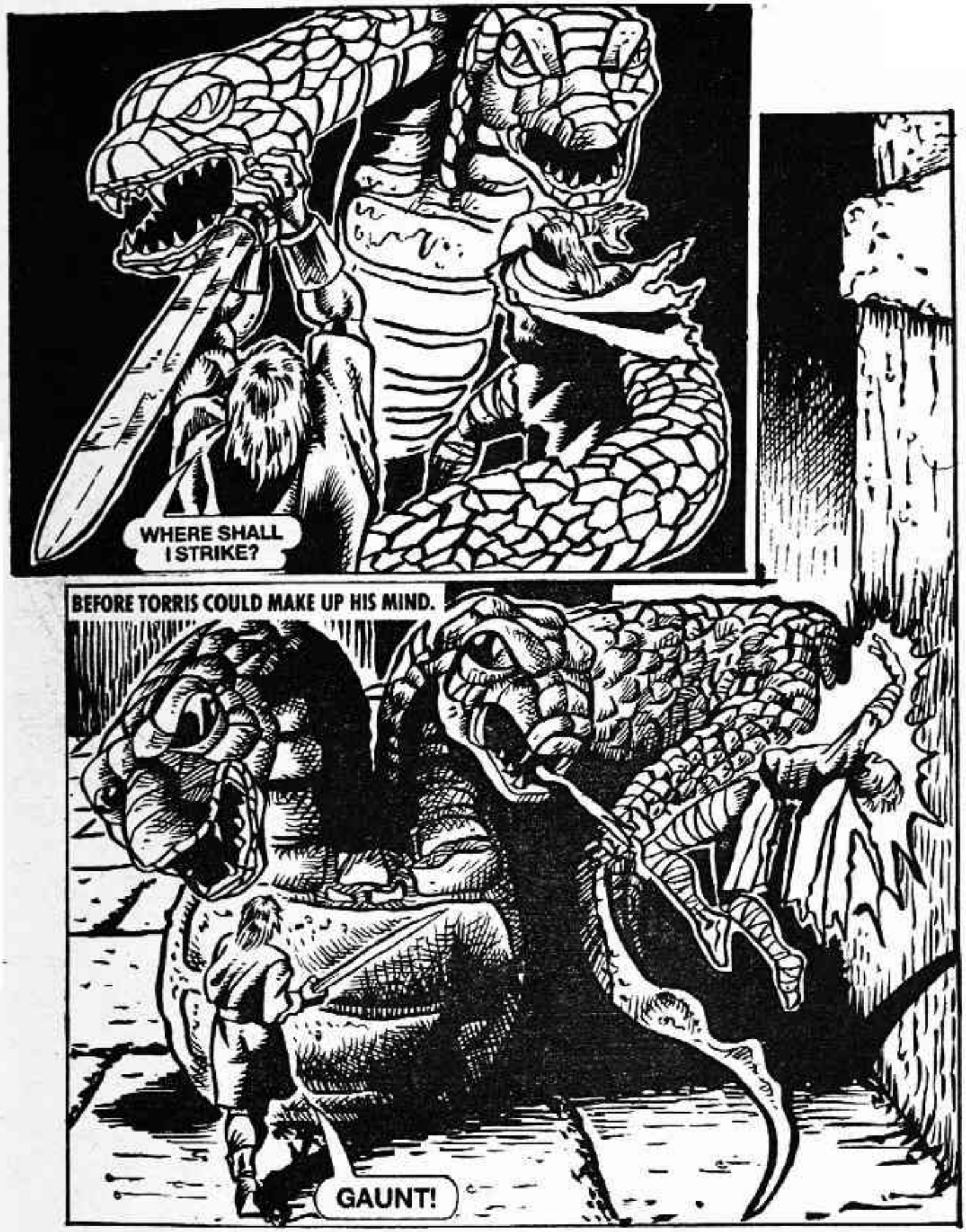
DARK BEINGS LIKE NOT THE LIGHT! BACK, VILE SPIRITS, TO THE PIT FROM WHICH YOU CAME!
AGAIN YOU SAVE MY LIFE — I AM NOW YOUR SERVANT.
I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT, BUT WE MUST PRESS ON . . .

THERE IS SOMETHING BEHIND THIS WALL — I CAN SENSE IT.
GAUNT WILL HELP!

SEE — IT IS EASY!!
HMMM! HE HAS HIS USES AFTER ALL.
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. PERHAPS WHAT I SEEK LIES IN YONDER CHAMBER.


A CUIRASS AND BATTLE STANDARD! I KNOW THE DESIGN THEY BEAR. THEY ONCE BELONGED TO AKRON LIONHEART.

FRIEND WANT ARMOUR . . . GAUNT WILL GET IT.
WAIT, THE SNAKE . . .
PLINK!
IT AWAKENS!
OUT OF THE WAY, GAUNT!


WHERE SHALL I STRIKE?
BEFORE TORRIS COULD MAKE UP HIS MIND.
GAUNT!

IT IS FAST!
BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, THE CREATURE'S DEATH-THROES ARE GOING TO BRING THE ROOF DOWN!

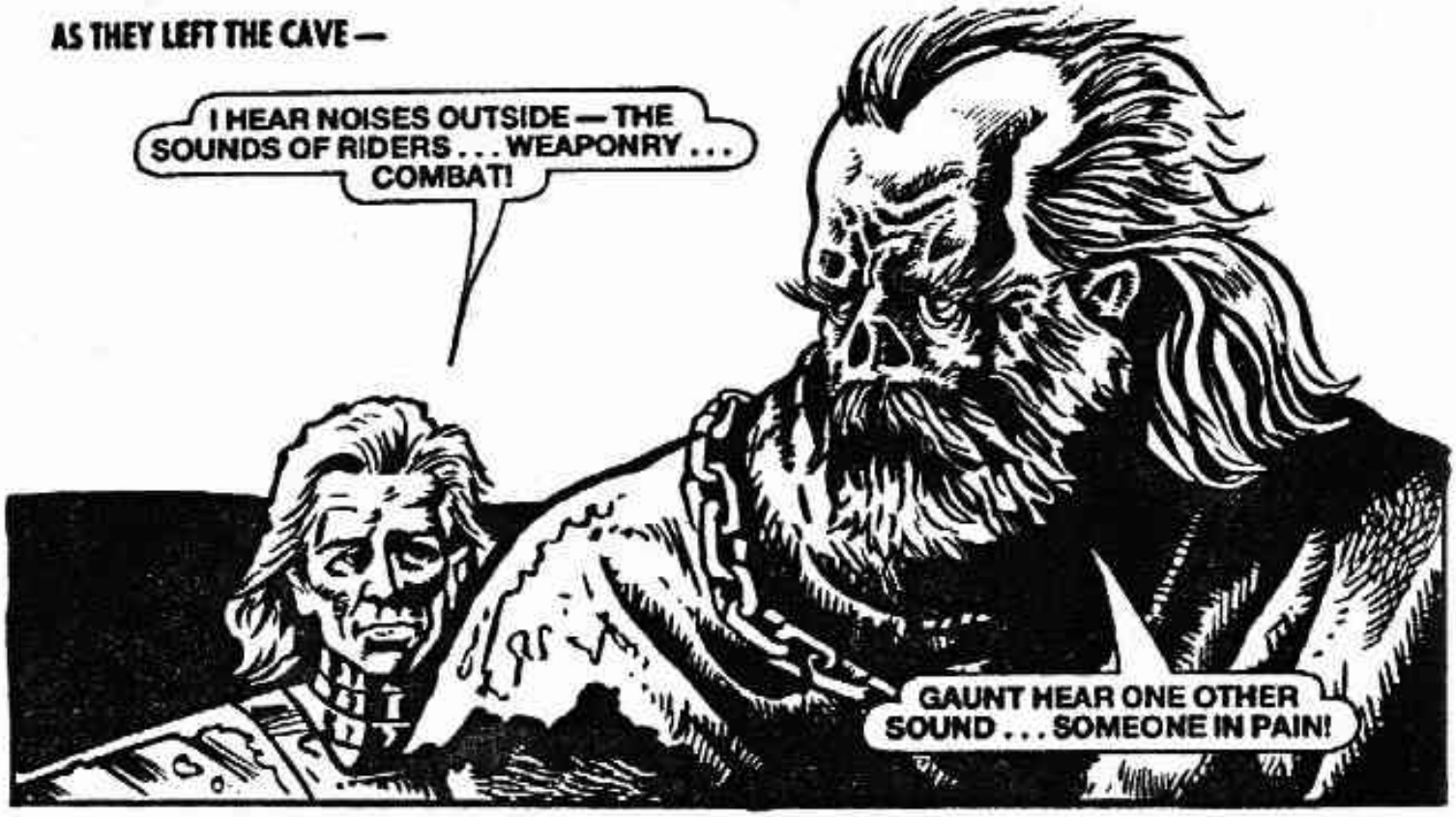
I HAVE THE STANDARD . . . . NOW FOR THE BREAST PLATE!

GAUNT, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE OR THIS PLACE WILL BECOME OUR BURIAL CHAMBER!

JUST MADE IT!
SO ALL THIS IS RIGHTLY MINE — I FIND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THAT I AM KING TO BE.

TORRIS DRESSED HIMSELF IN HIS DEAD FATHER'S ARMOUR.
LIONHEART LIVES ONCE AGAIN!

AS THEY LEFT THE CAVE —



MOLOCH'S KNIGHTS! THEY'VE FOUND US!
TORRIS! FLEE WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE!

NO! I'M TIRED OF RUNNING FROM MOLOCH'S EVIL — IT'S TIME TO MAKE A STAND.
MY REBELLION STARTS HERE!
IT'S LIONHEART!

THIS LAND HAS SUFFERED UNDER YOUR EVIL FOR LONG ENOUGH!
YOUR TIME HAS COME!

GO ON, RUN! TELL MOLOCH I AM ON MY WAY!
COWARDLY VERMIN.

GREGOR!
MY TASK IN THIS LIFE IS ALMOST COMPLETE. I HAVE ONLY ONE MORE THING TO TELL YOU.
YOU CAN'T DIE . . .
LISTEN . . . MOLOCH WEARS AN AMULET. IT AMPLIFIES HIS EVIL POWERS — BEWARE FOR HE WILL USE IT TO MAKE YOU AS WEAK AS A NEW-BORN LAMB.

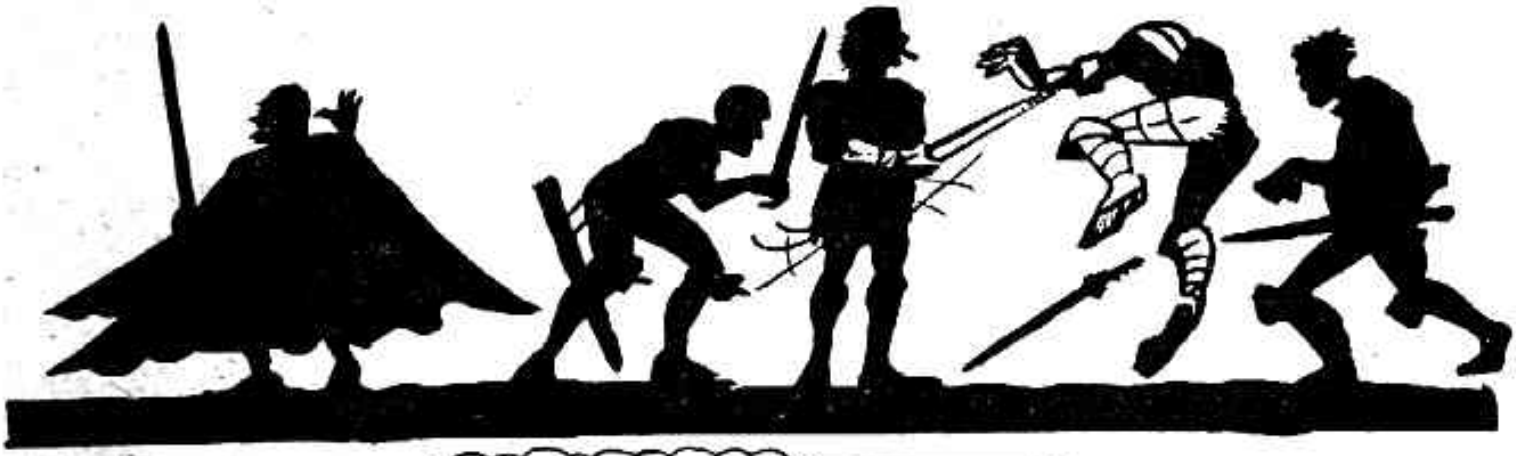
IN THE CITY OF DELMAR IS AN INN CALLED THE WOUNDED SOLDIER. A MAN CALLED SELAKI CAN BE FOUND THERE — HE WAS THE GENERAL OF YOUR FATHER'S ARMY AND CAN BE TRUSTED.
BUT, GREGOR . . .

FRIEND DEAD?
YES, GAUNT — HE'S DEAD.

ANOTHER FRIEND DIES BECAUSE OF MOLOCH'S EVIL!

A FEW DAYS LATER, GAUNT AND TORRIS ARRIVED IN DELMAR.
THIS IS THE INN GREGOR SPOKE OF BEFORE HE DIED. YOU HAD BEST WAIT HERE — GIANTS SCARE A LOT OF PEOPLE!

SELAKI, I'M TELLING YOU AGAIN — ARKON LIONHEART WAS A DRUNK AND A COWARD!
AYE, AND THOSE WHO SERVED HIM ARE COWARDS, TOO!
SCUM WHO FAWN BEFORE MOLOCH! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW A TRUE WARRIOR FIGHTS.



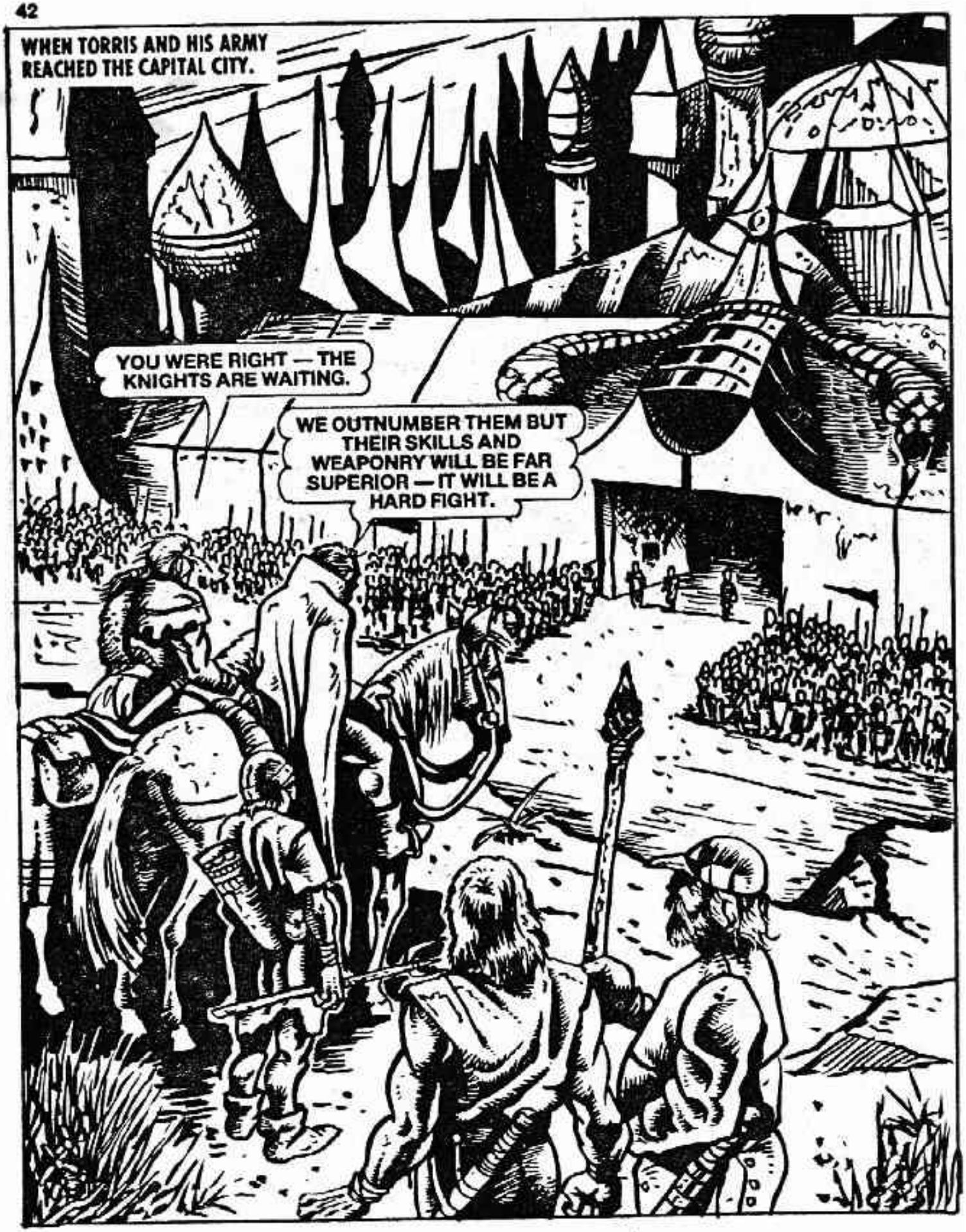
HE'S NOT SEEN THAT KNIGHT BEHIND HIM!
DIE, OLD MAN!
EH?

BUT BEFORE THE KNIGHT STRUCK, TORRIS INTERVENED—
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS WATCH YOUR BACK, MY FRIEND.
YOU HAVE MY THANKS, STRANGER.
YOU ARE SELAKI, GENERAL TO MY FATHER!
THE CUIRASS! YOU ARE HIS SON!

I HAVE WAITED FOR YOU SINCE YOUR FATHER'S DEATH. HOW CAN I SERVE YOU, MY LIEGE?
WELL FIRST YOU CAN GET OFF YOUR KNEES — THERE'S NO NEED FOR SUCH DRAMATICS IN MY PRESENCE.
YOU CAN AID ME IN FORMING AN ARMY. IT WILL BE HARD, BUT . . .
OF COURSE I'LL HELP. AND I THINK IT WILL BE EASIER THAN YOU REALISE.

THIS NATION HAS BEEN WAITING FOR SOMONE TO LEAD THEM AGAINST MOLOCH FOR YEARS.
AYE, WE SHALL SERVE YOU, SIRE.
MY SWORD IS YOURS, KING!
AS THEY JOURNEYED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THEIR CAUSE.

ON THEIR MARCH TO AKLAM, THE CAPITAL OF SHALINBARA—
I DON'T LIKE IT, SELAKI. WE'VE BEEN TRAVELLING FOR WEEKS AND HAVE SEEN NO DARK KNIGHTS.
OUR SCOUTS SAY THEY WAIT FOR US OUTSIDE AKLAM . . .
IT IS THERE THAT OUR FIGHT WILL BE WON OR LOST.


WHEN TORRIS AND HIS ARMY REACHED THE CAPITAL CITY.
YOU WERE RIGHT — THE KNIGHTS ARE WAITING.
WE OUTNUMBER THEM BUT THEIR SKILLS AND WEAPONRY WILL BE FAR SUPERIOR — IT WILL BE A HARD FIGHT.

BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE. IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN BACK NOW AND THE SOONER WE ATTACK THE LESS CHANCE THEY HAVE OF SENDING FOR REINFORCEMENTS.
I'LL ORDER THE CHARGE.
THE REBELS — THEY'RE COMING.
SIGNAL THE OTHERS, I'LL INFORM LORD MOLOCH.

FOR SHALINBARA!
SOMETHING'S WRONG — I CAN FEEL IT!
I FEAR YOU ARE RIGHT. THE STENCH OF TREACHERY IS IN THE AIR.

LOOK! MORE KNIGHTS! THEY WERE HIDING IN THE CITY!
WE ARE OUTNUMBERED!

MY HORSE!
TORRIS!
DIE!

NOT YET, THANKS.

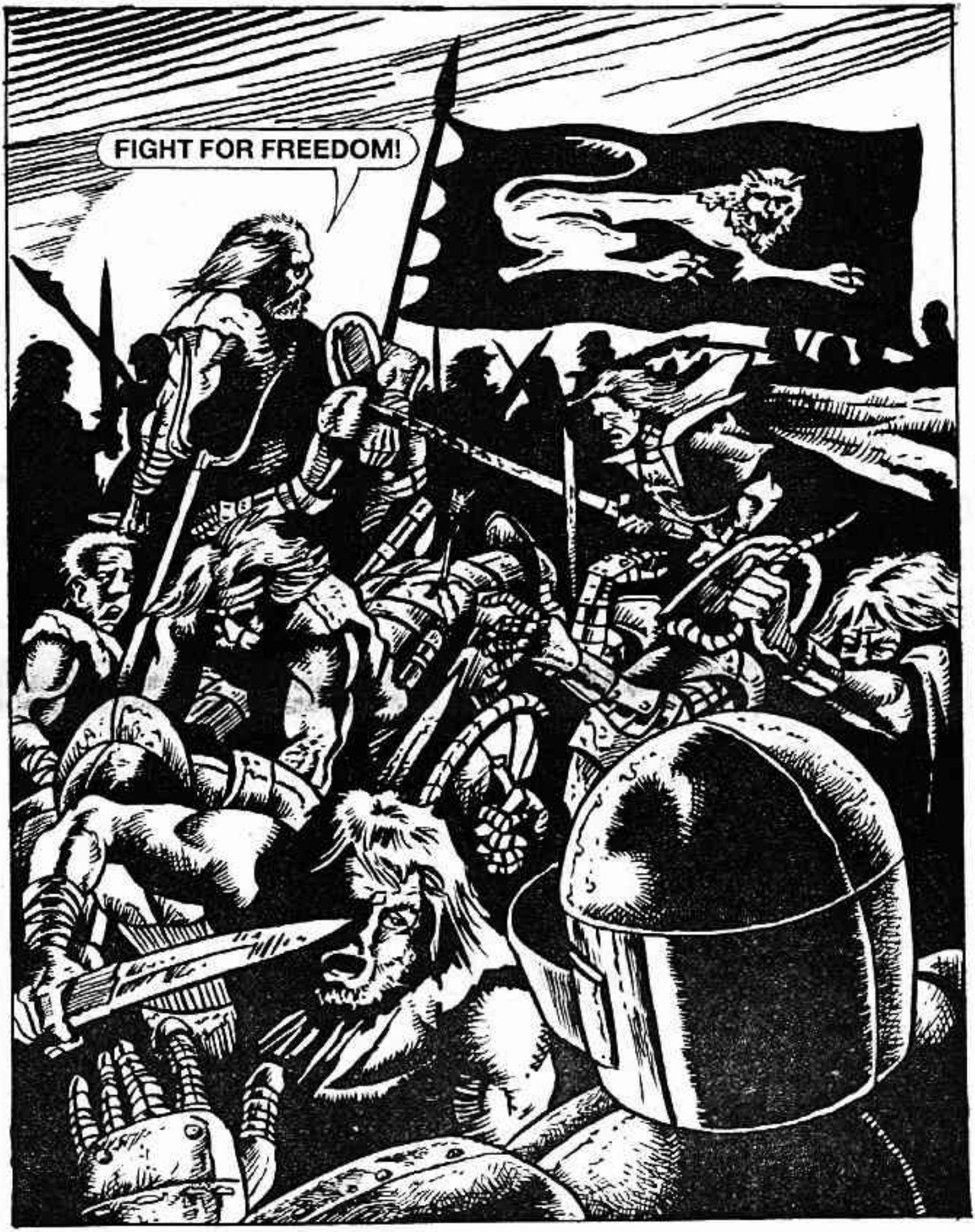
THE BATTLE DRAWS TO A CLOSE, AND WITH IT, OUR HOPES!
HOLD ON, I THINK I CAN GET HELP!

HURRY, OR WE'RE DOOMED!

WHERE DOES FRIEND GO?
I DON'T KNOW BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING HELPING US . . .

. . . UNLESS WE CAN STOP MOLOCH.
WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE PALACE — IF WE CAN KILL MOLOCH WE CAN END THIS CARNAGE!
GAUNT THINKS TOO MANY KNIGHTS BLOCK OUR PATH!
WE'VE GOT TO TRY.

LOOK!
SELAKI — WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY BEHIND HIM!
NOW WE HAVE A CHANCE!


FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

TORRIS AND GAUNT SLASHED AND HACKED THEIR WAY TO THE PALACE —
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS — THE PALACE IS TOO QUIET!
BEWARE OF TRAPS! MOLOCH'S CUNNING KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

THE ROOF'S COLLAPSING!
AGAIN YOU FALL FOR ONE OF THE MOST BASIC TRICKS — SON OF ARKON LIONHEART!
GAUNT!

MOLOCH!
IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO VISIT — IT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF HUNTING YOU DOWN!
KILL HIM!
I'M GROWING TIRED OF FIGHTING YOUR MINIONS, MOLOCH!

GAUNT HELP!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
IT TAKES MORE THAN RUBBLE TO KILL GAUNT!
NOW TO TAKE CARE OF MOLOCH.

FACE ME, WIZARD!
YOU ARE NOT WORTHY TO STAND AGAINST ME.
LET ME DEMONSTRATE MY SORCEROUS POWERS!
ARRGH!

FRIEND HURT?
A TRIFLE SORE IN PLACE . . . BUT FAR FROM BEATEN!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, MOLOCH?
DON'T BE FOOLISH — THAT WAS JUST A TASTE OF MY POWERS!

BEFORE I'M THROUGH, YOU'LL BEG FOR MERCY!
CAN'T MOVE . . . SOMETHING PUSHING ME DOWN . . . SORCERY!

HA! HA! HA! — SO MUCH FOR THE HEROIC REBEL!
HE'S SAPPING MY STRENGTH.

GOT TO STOP HIM . . . GREGOR SAID THAT AMULET AMPLIFIED MOLOCH'S POWERS . . . IF I COULD JUST REACH IT . . .
HA! HA! HA!
IT'S NO USE STRUGGLING — IN A MOMENT YOU WILL BE DEAD!
HE'S RIGHT . . . I'M TOO WEAK TO FIGHT HIM . . .
LEAVE GAUNT'S FRIEND ALONE!
WHAT?

YOU DARE TO ATTACK ME!?
HE'S DISTRACTED — THE SPELL'S BROKEN.
GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY.
THE AMULET!
I HAVE THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER, MOLOCH. SURRENDER!

NEVER — I NEED NO SORCERY TO DESTROY YOU!
DIE, LIONHEART!!

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME!
WE'LL SEE . . .

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!
MOLOCH LUNGED AT TORRIS —
AARRGH!
YOUR FATHER COULDN'T DEFEAT ME — SO WHAT CHANCE DO YOU HAVE?
EVEN GREGOR AND DALCAR WERE NO MATCH FOR ME!

FLEETING VISIONS OF HIS LONG-DEAD FATHER, DALCAR AND GREGOR PASSED THROUGH TORRIS' MIND. THEN A STRANGE IRRESISTIBLE FORCE SURGED THROUGH HIS VERY BEING! WITH THIS ADDED STRENGTH TORRIS STRUCK OUT!
BUT I AM!
AAARGH!
THIS IS FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED UNDER YOUR EVIL!

TORRIS STRUCK THE FATAL BLOW.
TORRIS, THE KNIGHTS HAVE SURRENDERED!
THANK GALLA, THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH BLOODSHED.
WHAT HAPPENED TO GAUNT?
MOLOCH TURNED HIM TO STONE — HE SAVED MY LIFE . . .
LOOK — SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!
THE SPELL — IT MUST HAVE DIED WITH THE WIZARD!

IS THE BAD MAN DEAD?
YES, MY FRIEND. THANKS TO YOU.
THE THRONE IS YOURS AND YOUR SUBJECTS ARE WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE THE PALACE — THEY WISH TO GREET THEIR NEW KING.
AND I WISH TO SEE THEM. WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, IF WE ARE TO RECOVER FROM MOLOCH'S RULE . . .
BUT FOR NOW LET US CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY — A LIONHEART IS KING ONCE MORE!

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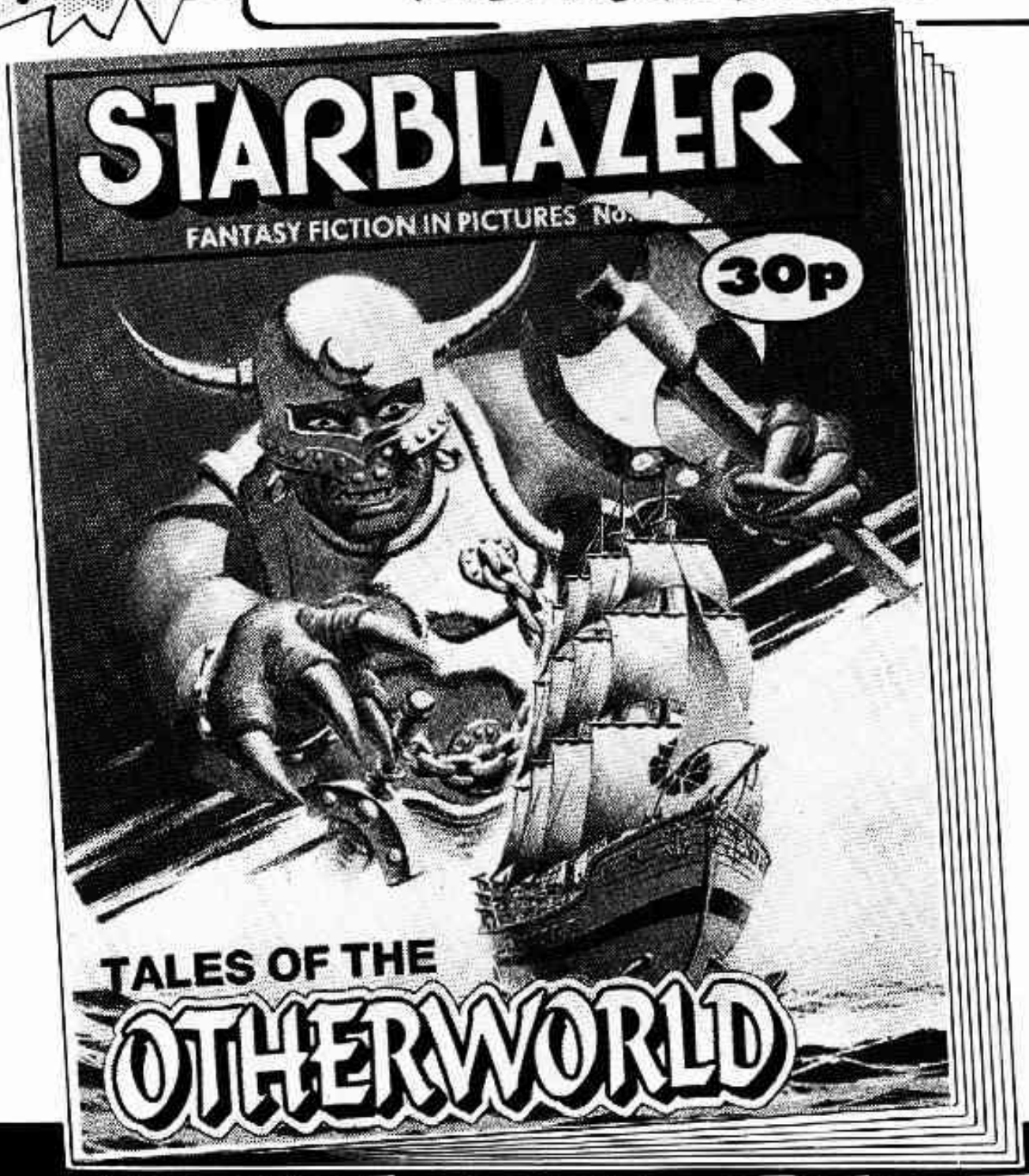
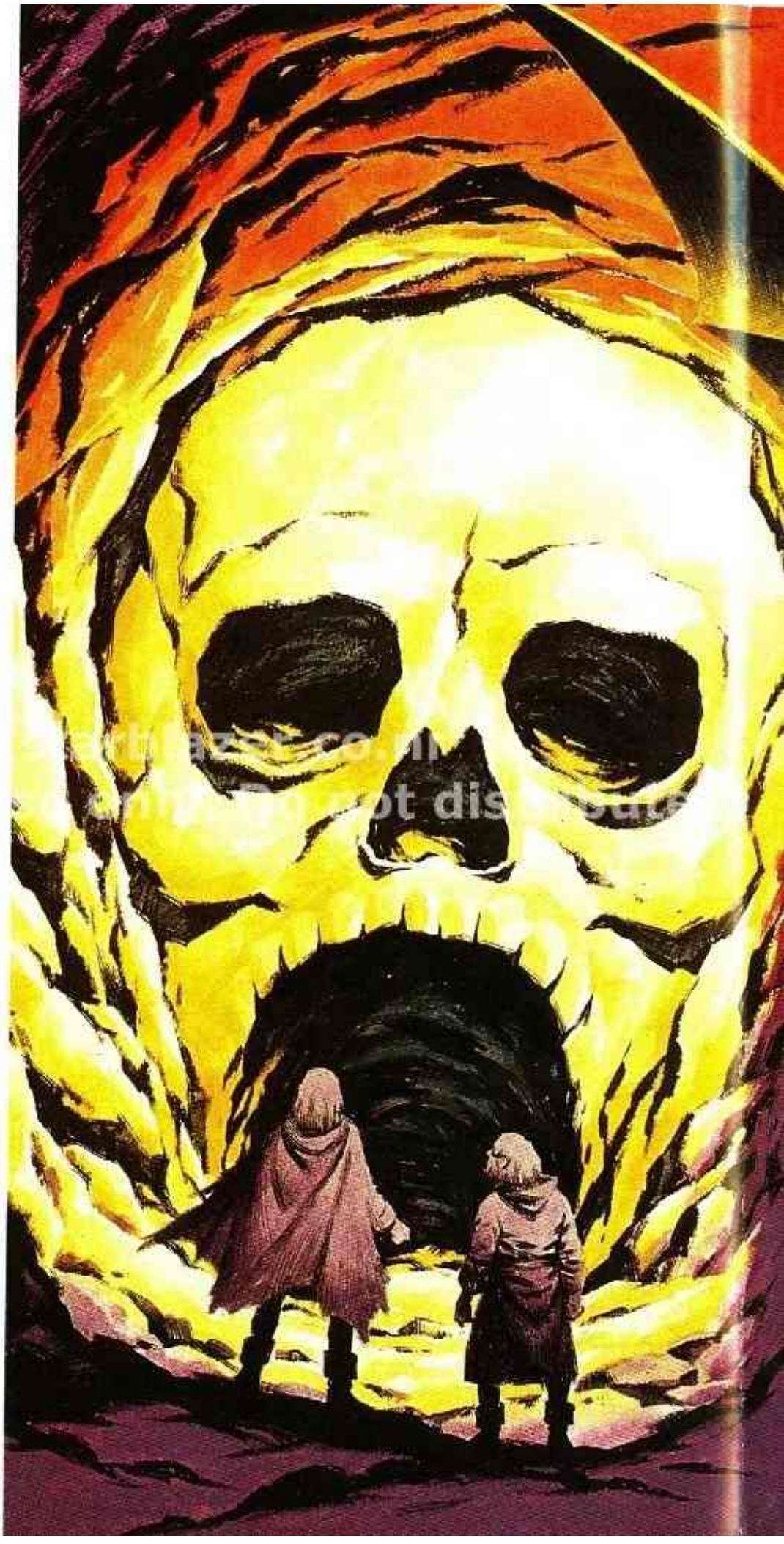
DON'T MISS

THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE



NOW ON SALE

LIONHEART

When the evil Warlock, Moloch, murdered King Akron and his wife to seize control of the Land of Shalinbara, he thought he would remain unchallenged. But unknown to him two ancient retainers had spirited away the infant son of the dead king. Hidden away he was trained, educated and taught the ways of war in readiness for that time when the rightful ruler would rise again.